

April 13, 2012

Weekly Views

Pendleton Juvenile Superintendent Linda Commons presented Executive Director of Division of Youth Services Michael Dempsey with a totem pole created by students as a collaborative art project. A student that helped create the totem pole explained the meaning of the animals on the totem pole: a spider (balance, wisdom, creativity, communication), a bear (courage, industrious, instinctive, healing, power), a scorpion (transforming, strong, inspiring, passionate) and on the top is a dragon (longevity, richness, prosperity, wisdom) (see photo below)

The Pendleton Correctional Facility began participation in the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Trash Bash Project. A road crew of eight offenders from the facility's minimum security Outside Dorm will be picking up trash along Interstate 70 through April 19.

Westville Correctional Facility's (WCC) Therapeutic Community (TC) offenders rose to the occasion by collecting over \$1,700 for the State sponsored Methamphetamine Project. Each TC across the state was requested to participate in the donation effort. Ms. Sward, WCC's TC Director, was not surprised by the generosity of the participants, who took money from their limited accounts. She acknowledged the offenders for their empathy and acts of moving past selfishness for a cause bigger than themselves.

Staff and offenders at New Castle Correctional Facility donated over \$500 for Miami Correctional Facility Officer Rodney Gahl, who was injured in an offender assault



Superintendent Steve McCauley is pleased to announce the promotion of Kenneth Wiltsie to the position of Major at the Indiana Women's Prison. Mr. Wiltsie began his career as a Correction Officer in Montana and Arizona for 13 years before coming to the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) as Sergeant in 2002. As a result of his willingness to thrive within the organization, he promoted through the ranks to lieutenant, captain, facility investigator, correctional police officer and now major. Superintendent McCauley stated "It is rewarding to have the opportunity to promote employees that work hard to achieve organizational goals. I have absolutely no doubt that Major Wiltsie will continue on this outstanding path for IWP." Congratulations Major Wiltsie! (see photo left)



Camp Summit hosted a GED graduation for five students who earned their GED diplomas last month. Several parents attended the ceremony in which Camp Summit Youth Service Instructor Robert Post was the keynote speaker. Mr. Post reinforced the importance of improving one's education for success in the job market and in society in general. School Principal, Terry Moore encouraged the students to continue to pursue educational opportunities vigorously.

The American Legion Post 130 offender organization from the Indiana State Prison held a meeting where members presented checks to the Indiana National Guard Relief Fund for \$650, Michigan City JROTC for \$1,000, Center for the Homeless in South Bend for \$500, and the Child Welfare Foundation for \$1,000. Outside representatives from the ROTC and the American Legion came to the prison to accept the donations. A hand painted portrait was also presented to Linda Luke of her late husband Butch Luke 3rd District commander, who passed away last fall. He had contributed a lot of his time to Post 130.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held a carry-in lunch to celebrate the retirement of 17-year veteran officer Steve Hoyle. Officer Hoyle started his career in corrections in Fort Wayne at North East Juvenile Correctional Facility, before transferring to Chain O' Lakes in March 2010. Superintendent Kathy Griffin presented Officer Hoyle with a plaque for his dedication to the department. Officer Hoyle's immediate plans are to work on his golf game. (see photo below)

Charlene Burkett, Ombudsman Bureau Director, was the keynote speaker at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) Community Advisory Board meeting. Director Burkett explained the process of resolving offender issues and said she works closely with facility staff, utilizing their input and Department Policy and Procedures to address concerns and when needed recommend change, in a timely manner.

The Plainfield Correctional Facility successfully completed an audit conducted by representatives of the American Correctional Association (ACA) and will be recommended for re-accreditation. During the audit process, the facility scored 100% on mandatory and 97.3% on non-mandatory standards.

Superintendent Brian Smith thanked the audit team for their thorough and fair evaluation and praised staff for their outstanding efforts in preparing the facility for the audit.

